

VII-XI

Not offered

Def. Doc. # 2622

Exhibit # _____



Envelop

Containing letter from Baron
HARADA to Marquis KIDO post-
marked Sept. 14, 1941.

Front

Stamp -
Sept. 14, 1941.

Marquis KIDO, Koichi
Tokyo Akasaka, Shinsaka Machi, 52.
Confidential.

Back

Sept. 13, 1941.
Amanoya Hotel, Yugawara, Soshu.
Kumao.

LETTER ADDRESSED BY THE LATE BARON KUMAO HARADA,
PRIVATE SECRETARY TO PRINCE SAIONJI, TO
MARQUIS KOICHI KIDO (Translation)

C/o Amanoya Hotel, Yugawara,
September 13, 1941.

Dear Koichi,

I came here yesterday in quest of data for Prince Saionji's reminiscences to stay a few days. I am very pleased to let you know that I have come across a very interesting document, which contains a record on the circumstances leading up to your assumption of the post of Lord Keeper of the Privy Seal.

The document shows that you assumed a very modest attitude, recommending Prince Konoyo or Baron Hiranuma as candidate for the post, but Prince Saionji would not approve of any other candidate but you. The document further quotes the Prince as saying:

"The grandson of Koin Kido, who rendered very distinguished services to the Throne during and after the Meiji Restoration of 1868 is now going to serve the Emperor close to him. It is not only a manifestation of our devotion to our immemorial tradition, but also a matter for admiration to the people in general. Kido's unalloyed loyalty and unswerving devotion to the Throne will add to the splendor of his grandfather's record."

The document also contains a passage in which Prince Saionji stressed the propriety of assuming the post of Grand Chamberlain concurrently on your part.

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It is a small wonder that the Emperor reposes implicit confidence in you, especially since there is not much talent among those close to the Throne. I understand that the change of Grand Chamberlain is imminent. Talent is as scarce as ever among those close to the Throne, which fact makes me secretly recall the concurrent assumption of the post of Grand Chamberlain on your part, as stressed by Prince Saionji. When Prince Saionji passed away, the following Chinese poem was hung written on the wall of my study.

Saifu Sakuya Koyo o moyasu

Shushi Shinshin Kikkani ari

(The west wind blew yellow-tinted
leaves last night,

Autumnal sentiments are concentrated
on the chrysanthemum).

(The first part stresses the writer's
devotion to the Throne, the
chrysanthemum being the Emperor's
family crest).

I recommend you to read the poem. It is growing cooler and colder every day with the advance of autumn, and I hope this note may find you in the best of health.

Yours very truly,

Kunao.

木戸書證第 3 號

相州湯河原天乃や原田熊男ヨリノ書翰（一六、九、一三）

逐日秋冷之時節ニ赴候處老兄益々御多祥大慶至極ニ存候。小生昨日ヨリ政日ノ豫定、當地ニ參リ老公閑談資料ヲ求メ居リ候處偶然老兄内府就任前後ノ事情記録有之、老兄近衛、平沼ヲ推挽セラレテ頗ル遺憾セラレタル折老公ハ木戸以外ハ不可ナリトシテ聞カズ。而曰ク功臣木戸ノ後孫側近ニ奉仕ス。國柄ニ迪シ又衆庶之仰グ處所以ナシトセズ。木戸ノ忠誠ハ實ニ夫レ父祖ノ歴史ヲ更ニ光輝アラシムルモノナラムトテ更ニ老兄ガ侍從長ヲ兼ヌベキヲ力說セラルル處アリ。側近人乏シク侍臣以テ倚賴スルニ充分ナリト言ヒ難シ。主上老兄ニ信厚キヲ賜フ亦宜ナリ。侍從長更迭ノ期近シト聞ク。人渺キニ及ンデ秘ニ兼任ノ說俄ニ想起シテ密ニ側近ノ事ヲ思フ。老公薨ズルノ當時書壁ニ左ノ詩アリ。老兄ニ勸メテ一讀ヲ乞フ。

九月十三日

西風昨夜催黃葉
秋思至心在菊花

幸
一
老
兄